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PORTSLADE-BY-SEA

REPORT

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health,
For the Year 1938,

BY
N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

N. E. CHADWICK, M.D., also M.O.H. of Hove.

SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR—

D. V. HOWARD, M.Inst.M. & Cy.E., C.R.S.I.

ASSISTANT SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR—

W. E. RUDGLEY, A.M.Inst.M. & Cy.E., C.R.S.I.

PHYSICIAN TO THE CHILD WELFARE CENTRE—

Miss V. E. CLAXTON, M.B., B.S., London.

HEALTH VISITOR AND SCHOOL NURSE—

Miss I. O. LINTON, S.C.M., H.V's. Certificate,
(*resigned 30.7.38*).

Miss D. G. HEAD, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V's. Certificate,
(*from 3.10.38*).

Urban District of Portslade-by-Sea

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1938.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1938, which follows the schedule laid by the Ministry of Health.


The vital statistics do not vary very greatly from year to year but it is gratifying to note that the Birth Rate continues to rise and the Death Rate to remain stationary. The population again shows an increase of approximately 500 persons, most of whom have presumably been attracted by the facilities and amenities of the new housing estates.

There was an increase in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever but Diphtheria was virtually absent again. The majority of new cases of Tuberculosis notified were either transfers from other areas or due to a correlation of our local records with those of the County Council. Considerable attention was devoted during the year in conjunction with the A.R.P. Officer to the organisation of the Casualty Services, and it is believed that these services would work smoothly and efficiently in time of need.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

N. E. CHADWICK.



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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS, 1938.

Area (acres) 1,961

Population—Census, 1931—9527

Resident Population for 1938—12,070

Inhabited houses(1921)—1,527 : Estimated 1938, 3,358

Families or separate occupiers—1938—estimated 3,693

Rateable value—£108,000

Sum represented by a penny rate—£409

SOCIAL CONDITIONS—The population is mainly working-class engaged in the Brighton and Hove Gas Works, factories and laundries. There are no unhealthy occupations ; the employers are in nearly all cases keenly interested in the welfare of their workers

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS		Total	Male	Female
Live Births	{ Legitimate	184	93	87
	{ Illegitimate	4	2	2

Birth-rate 15·3

Stillbirths :—5. Rate per 1,000 births—27·2.

DEATHS	130	57	73
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Corrected Death-rate 10·8. Standard Death-rate 10·69

Number of women dying in or in consequence of Child-birth :—
From Sepsis : none. From other causes : none.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age—5.

Rate per 1,000 births : Total 27·2.

DEATHS from

Measles (all ages)	...	...	1
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	none
Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	...	...	none

BIRTH RATE.

The Birth Rate is slightly higher than last year's figure, and this is accounted for by a slightly larger total of births and a considerable rise in population. The Infant Mortality Rate is much lower than in 1937, but is accounted for by a rise of 14 in the total number of births and a diminution of 1 in the deaths.

POPULATION.

The population of Portslade continues to increase year by year by about 500 persons, and the Registrar General's Estimate for the middle of 1938 was 12,070.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The number of deaths attributed to Heart Disease was 43, Cancer 15, and Apoplexy 10. There was a fall in the number of deaths due to Tuberculosis (all forms) from 15 to 6.

In the case of Portslade, the Corrected Death Rate, i.e., the Death Rate of all residents in the area irrespective of the place of death, and Standard Death Rate, which is the Corrected Death Rate, still further corrected for age and sex distribution, are practically identical, and are the same as in 1937.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME

(a) General, and (b) for Infectious Diseases

Full provision is made for nursing all cases, and for Midwifery by the Portslade District Nursing Association, affiliated to the Queen's Institute of District Nursing and East Sussex Nursing Federation, under whom the nurses mentioned above work.

Since April, 1930, the East Sussex County Council has been responsible for Midwifery, and the Nursing of Infectious Disease among Children.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS are made by the M.O.H. at the Hove Laboratory.

The specimens examined in 1938, were :—

For Diptheria :—primary to diagnosis	...	...	48
For Tuberculosis (sputum)	...	...	52

ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890. Part III.	July, 1899
Private Street Works Act, 1892	January, 1900
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907	
Sections 15 to 22 and 28 to 33 of Part II, Part IV, Part VI.	March 12th, 1912
Public Health Act, 1925. Part II, (not Sec. 44)	Sept. 1st, 1926
Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933	Oct., 1933

BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS WITH RESPECT TO—

Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	May, 1902
Nuisances	...	...	...	May, 1902
Cemeteries	...	...	...	revised March, 1913
Recreation Ground	...	...	...	May, 1902
Cleansing of Footpaths and Pavements				May, 1902
Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar Structures used for human habitation	...	...	...	November, 1920
New Streets and Buildings	...	...	...	revised Nov. 1926

HOSPITAL SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR INHABITANTS

GENERAL—All the voluntary Hospitals in Brighton and Hove are used by Portslade residents.

The Southlands Hospital, under the East Sussex Public Assistance Committee, is also available

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—Under the scheme provided by the East Sussex County Council under Section 65 of the Local Government Act, 1929, Portslade's quota of beds allocated at the Hove Sanatorium is raised from 3 to 6

SMALLPOX—Cases will be admitted to the special hospital of the Brighton Corporation at Fulking Grange, one bed reserved

TUBERCULOSIS—Patients are sent to Darvell Hall Sanatorium, Robertsbridge : and some to the open air wards at the Southlands Hospital

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS :

Arrangements are made by the Chichester Diocesan Moral Welfare Association for emergency cases to be accommodated temporarily at the Brighton Refuge, 19 Wellington Road

AMBULANCE FACILITIES (a) Infectious cases are removed by the Ambulance of the Hove Council. (b) For non-infectious and accident cases, ambulances can be hired from private owners

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

<i>Name and Situation</i>	<i>When held</i>	<i>Provided by</i>
Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, St. Nicholas' Hall	every Tuesday afternoon	County Council
Day Nursery	none	none
School Clinic for minor ailments St. Nicholas' Hall, Portslade	Daily for 2 hours	County Council
Ditto, for teeth, ditto	once weekly	County Council
Tuberculosis Dispensary, Hove Hospital	Wednesdays at 10 a.m.	County Council
Venereal Diseases Clinic, Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton	3 days weekly for men and women	County Council
Orthopædic, St. Nicholas' Hall	once per month	County Council
Artificial light	no local clinic	

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

PORTSLADE INFANT WELFARE CENTRE

STATISTICS FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1938

1. INFANT WELFARE CENTRE

- (a) Total number of sessions held during the year 51
- (b) Total number of attendances during the year by children
- (i) under 1 year of age 2896 (ii) between the ages 1 and 5 years 2823
- (c) Total number of children who first attended at the Centre during the year, and who, on the date of their first attendance were—
- (i) under 1 year of age* 216 (ii) between the ages of 1 and 5 years 72
- (d) Total number of children under 5 years of age who attended at the Centre during the year and who, at the end of the year were—
- (i) under 1 year of age 116 (ii) over 1 year of age 456
- (e) Maximum number of all mothers who attended at any one time 134

* Excluding children who are known to have previously attended a Centre in another district

2. ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL SERVICES

(" Post-natal " refers only to the examination of mothers for some gynæcological condition)

	Ante-Natal		Post-Natal
	At A.N. Clinic	At I.W.C.	At I.W.C.
(a) Total number of sessions held during the year	48	51	51
(b) Total number of attendances during the year	468	27	17
(c) Total number of women who attended at the Clinic during the year	108	23	17

(d) (i) Is the Ante-natal Clinic held on a separate day or hour from the Infant Welfare Centre? At the end of the Infant Welfare Clinic. Yes.

(ii) Does the Medical Officer hold ante-natal consultations during the usual sessions of the Infant Welfare Centre? Only in exceptional circumstances

3. SUPPLY OF MILK AND FOOD. (Apart from that supplied under the County Council Scheme).

Indicate what arrangements are made for this service by inserting "Yes" or "No" in each space in the following Table:

Terms of Supply	MILK			Other Food		
	Expectant Mothers	Nursing Mothers	Children under 5 years of age	Expectant Mothers	Nursing Mothers	Children under 5 years of age
Free, or at less than cost price in necessitous cases	No	No	No	No	No	No
At cost price in other cases (e.g. sale of dried milk at Centres)	No	Yes	Yes (dried milk only)	Yes	Yes	Yes

Date 12/1/39. Signed D. G. HEAD, Nurse-in-Charge. Total 2,103 lbs.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER SUPPLY

The whole of the district is supplied by the Brighton Corporation. The water is hard but of excellent quality, well aerated and very pure. The supply is constant.

DRAINAGE

The whole of the public roads in the District are sewered by gravitation on the water carriage system.

During the year estate developments by private enterprise has been extremely active, and it is pleasing to note that with respect to such development, the Council are insisting on the provision of surface water and foul sewers on such estates at the time the estate is developed.

The connection to the newly provided main sewers of the drainage systems of the whole of the 120 properties on the Paddocks Estate, Mile Oak Road (and the consequent abolition of cesspools thereof) was completed during the year.

In conjunction with Brighton Corporation Waterworks Department, an extensive survey was made of all remaining cesspools in the Mile Oak Area. As a result, negotiations took place with the owners of all properties having cesspools with a view to the drains thereof being connected to the public sewer.

These negotiations for abolition of cesspool and connection of drains to main sewers were successful in all cases where defects were found. Also in a number of cases where no defect was found.

In the few remaining cases the owners desired to retain the cesspools for horticultural purposes. These remaining cesspools comply with the Byelaws and the same are carefully watched and periodically put under water test to ensure the same being put in good condition.

All sewerage is discharged into intercepting Sewers which are under the control of the Portslade and Southwick Outfall Sewerage Board. Disposal is by means of Sea Outfall owned by the Board.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

This work is carried out by direct labour by means of two "Dennis" 10 cubic yard petrol driven collecting vehicles and disposal by means of "Controlled Tipping" in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health. This system of Collection and Disposal still continues to prove to be thoroughly satisfactory and economical.

Very few and only occasional complaints as to non-collection have been received, which, on investigation, have in all cases been found to be due to the fault of the occupier, generally speaking, owing to access to premises not being available at the time of call.

Owing to the position of the site of the tip being in the centre of the town (although not in a closely built up area) particular care has been taken to ensure that no reason for complaint can arise as a result of the method of disposal employed.

No complaints have been received during the year as to nuisance arising from this method of disposal.

The site of the tip is an old sand and flint pit which had been excavated to various depths, and was purchased some years ago, for firstly, disposal of house refuse in the manner indicated, and eventually for use as a recreation ground.

The work of collection has been efficiently carried out, the refuse being collected once weekly from the backs of the houses.

SANITARY INSPECTION—The Sanitary Inspector has prepared the following Annual Statement of his visits and notices:—

Houses inspected for housing defects	...	193
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	...	435
Houses inspected after complaints	...	137
Premises disinfected	...	42
Informal notices issued (Housing & P.H. Acts)	...	368
Statutory notices issued	„ „ „	87
Houses found dirty	... ..	30
„ „ Overcrowded	... ..	5
„ with insufficient ashpits or bins	... ..	169
Drains defective	... ..	25
Closets	... ..	17
Sinks	... ..	19
Roofs and Gutters defective	... ..	53

Paving of Yards defective	...	...	60
Damp & Defective Walls, Ceilings, Floors, etc.			53
Cesspools defective	...	...	34
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	12

RATS AND MICE—The Sanitary Inspector acts as Officer under this Act, tins of poison with handbills were given free to applicants during the year, and during November an intensive campaign for Rat Week was carried out by the issue of posters, etc.

Eradication of bed bugs.

- (1) During the year ten Council Houses were found to be infested to a varying degree and six Non-Council Houses. The whole of these houses were disinfected as follows :—
- (2) (a) Council Houses by means of stripping walls, supplying insecticide powder, disinfectants and redecorating. Four Council Houses treated by Cyanide Gas (by Contract)
- (b) Private Houses, in certain rooms stripping of walls and re-distempering the same, together with a liberal application of insecticide powder and disinfectant.

In the case of (a) the work has been carried out by the Council. In the case of (b) the work has been carried out by the landlord, the Council supplying, free of charge, supplies of insecticide powder and loan of bellows, and disinfectants.

- (3) The methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses are that all premises and furniture of persons about to move into Council Houses are inspected prior to removal
- (4) The work of disinfection is carried out :—
 - (a) In Council Houses by the Council
 - (b) In Private Houses by the tenant or the landlord

HOUSING STATISTICS, 1930

New houses and flats erected during the year :

Total	...	...	...	...	193
With State Assistance by Local Authority				...	0
„ „ „ by other persons					0

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES

1. *Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	193
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	279
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	95
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	181
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	8
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	168

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	156
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :**A-Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 17 of the Housing Act, 1936*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	22
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners	26
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

B-Proceedings under Public Health Acts

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 212 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices : | |
| (a) By Owners | 60 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | 0 |

C-Proceedings under sections 11, and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for habitation | 1 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made | 0 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders | 0 |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted from owners, Section 19 (2) :— | |
| (a) To render the house fit for human habitation | 1 |
| (b) As to usage other than for human habitation | 1 |

D-Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | 0 |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | 0 |

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—Part IV—OVERCROWDING

- | | |
|--|----|
| (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year | 15 |
|--|----|

(ii) Number of families therein	16
(iii) Number of persons	124
(b) Number of new cases reported during the year	4
(c) (i) Number of cases relieved	5
(ii) Number of persons concerned	42
(d) Particulars, &c.	No.

The total number of houses in the area is estimated to be 3358. Many of these houses in the older parts of the town are not up to modern standards, but with continued inspection remain quite serviceable.

There is no evidence of any widespread overcrowding although a considerable number of families continue to live under inconvenient and unsuitable surroundings. The waiting list for Council Houses to date amounts to 95 applicants living in rooms, 15 in flats and 52 applicants who are householders.

During the latter part of the year a scheme was prepared for the erection of 28 flats for aged couples. It is hoped that these will be erected during the coming year.

During the year the Council completed the purchase of 10 acres of land in the Mile Oak Area for future housing purposes.

FITNESS OF HOUSES—There has been no difficulty in dealing with the defects found in houses ; water supply and drainage are sufficient. All houses with the exception of 16 have water-closets

BYE-LAWS—Are sufficient : No difficulty has arisen in their enforcement. No case of illness due to housing faults has come to my notice.

A large number of other properties were improved in consequence of action under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES, 1930

1—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises 1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions (4)
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries).	24	2	None
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries)	41	3	None
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' premises)	0	0	None
TOTAL	65	5	None

2—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prose- cutions (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Factories Acts :—*</i>				
Want of Cleanliness				
Want of Ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors				
Other Nuisances	2	2		
Sanitary Accommodation {	insufficient	1	1	
	unsuitable or defective	2	2	
	not separate for sexes ...			
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses (101)				
Other offences				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921)				
Total	5	5	0	0

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY—There are only 2 farms in the district from which milk is supplied ; these are kept in a satisfactory condition

There are 4 dairies in the District, 5 Cowkeepers, 1 vendor of skim milk only, 18 small shops where milk is sold in bottles only : and 19 Retailers and Dairymen who deliver milk in this District, of which 16 have premises in other districts.

MEAT—There are two Slaughter-houses in the District ; 17 visits of inspection were made.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIED CASES AND DEATHS DURING 1938.

DISEASE	Total	Under 1 yr.	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	Over 65	Re- moved Hosp	De'ths
Scarlet Fever ...	21		2	2	2	1	10	3		1				15	
Erysipelas ...	7								2	2		3		1	
Pneumonia ...	9		2					1			3	3			1
Diphtheria ...	6						4			2				4	
Puerperal Fever															
Puerperal Pyrexia	2									2					
Encephalitis ...															
	45		4	2	2	1	14	4	2	7	3	6		20	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 ...	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
15 ...	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	1
20 ...	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 ...	5	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
35 ...	2	3	—	1	—	—	—	1
45 ...	4	3	—	1	1	—	—	—
55 ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
65 ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	14	14	3	4	3	—	1	2

Of the 35 new cases notified during the year 11 received in-patient treatment at various Sanatoria. Portslade comes within the area of the Hove Dispensary, and in that connexion I paid 10 visits to patients in their own homes, and the Health Visitor 50

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS
AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1925 SECTION, 62

No action was necessary under these powers

